sector regarding their participation in certain areas of major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, portwise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a)Yes Sir.

(b) Government have received some proposals like, operation of a berth at Haldia, taking over of dry dock facilities on lease at Calcutta, operation of a Container Terminal at JNPT

(c) Government have approved in principle the proposal of leasing of dry docks on competitive tender basis Government welcomes private participation in the ports sector Each case will be decided on its merits.

Export of Cashew Kernels

5008. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of cashew kernls during January-November, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor,

(c) the steps taken to boost the export of cashew kernels, during 1992-93, and

(d) the extent to which the exports are likely to improve?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the compilation brought out by the DGCI&S, during January-November, 1991, cashew worth Rs.541.39 crores were exported as compared to Rs.387.77 crores during the corresponding period in 1990.

(c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives. This process has been accelerated with the measures outlined in the Budget proposals presented to Parliament by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 29th February, 1992

In addition to the above, Export Promotion Councils will be participating in certain selected fairs abroad and delegations of exporters will inter-act with importers in different countries and also by participating in Buyer-Seller Meets

(d) It will not be possible to quantify the likely improvement in exports.

Prices of Imported Raw Materials and Components

5009. SHRI ANNA JOSHI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that as a result of devaluation of Indian Rupee last year, the prices of imported raw material and components have gone up,

(b) whether the indigenous industries have requested the Government for suitable price escalation for of their products to the Government,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM). (a) The prices of imported raw materials and components largely depend on the movement of prices for such